

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CU-02 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 STR-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 SCA-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /080 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 664

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SCUL, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC
AGREEMENT

REF: A) SOFIA 2828; B) STATE 201490; C) SOFIA 1827; D) STATE
219982; E) SOFIA 2058

1. ON JANUARY 5, AS PROMISED BY THE BULGARIANS (REF A) WE
RECEIVED GOB RESPONSE TO OUR COUNTERDRAFT OF CULTURAL-SCIEN-
TIFIC AGREEMENT (REF B), IN THE FORM OF A NEW DRAFT. WHILE
SOME DIFFICULTIES REMAIN TO BE SURMOUNTED, THE RESPONSE IS
ON THE WHOLE POSITIVE.

2. POSITIVE FEATURES OF THE BULGARIA COUNTERDRAFT ARE
(A) THEY PICKED UP SOME OF OUR LANGUAGE ON EXCHANGE OF IN-
FORMATION, MISSING ENTIRELY FROM THEIR EARLIER DRAFT;
(B) THEY DROPPED THEIR ARTICLE ON FUNDING WHICH HAD BEEN
TROUBLESOME; (C) VERBATIM ACCEPTANCE OF OUR DRAFT'S LANGUAGE
ON NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES; (D) ALMOST
VERBATIM ACCEPTANCE OF OUR LANGUAGE ON TOURISM; (E)
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SOME NEW LANGUAGE ON OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

BEYOND THOSE SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT; (F) DROPPING OF SOME OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE ON "FACILITIES" WHICH WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO GRANT THEM TO ENABLE THEM TO EXECUTE THEIR UNDERTAKINGS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE STILL HAVE SOME MAJOR NEGOTIATING PROBLEMS: (A) THE BULGARIAN COUNTERDRAFT SPEAKS OF CONTACTS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS, RATHER THAN SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES. WE WILL HAVE TO EXPLORE WHETHER THIS IS INTENDED TO BE RESTRICTIVE OR WHETHER BULGARIANS HAVE IN MIND COVERING SPECIFICS IN AN ANNEX. IN ANY CASE WE BELIEVE THE AGREEMENT ITSELF WILL HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC. (B) IN SEVERAL PLACES THEIR LANGUAGE TENDS TO BE LIMITING RATHER THAN OPEN-ENDED. THIS ALSO WILL HAVE TO BE EXPLORED. (C) THEIR DRAFT IS QUITE DEFICIENT ON SUCH MATTERS AS EXHIBITS AND ACCESS TO LIBRARIES. (D) THEY STILL WANT A JOINT COMMISSION AND A FIVE-YEAR TERM. OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL HAVE TO TALK THEM OUT OF THESE NOTIONS.

4. THE BULGARIANS ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONE DOCUMENT FOR CULTURAL, INFORMATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES. (THIS HAS NEVER BEEN A PROBLEM HERE.) HOWEVER, THEY PROPOSE TO ORGANIZE THE AGREEMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES ARE CONSIDERED IN ONE PARAGRAPH -- BECAUSE THEIR COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION (CSTPHE) COMBINES BOTH FIELDS -- WHEREAS OUR DRAFT TREATS THEM SEPARATELY. BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN INTERNAL COORDINATION PROBLEMS THEY SEEK TO SET OFF CONCERNS OF CSTPHE FROM THOSE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE, ANOTHER MINISTERIAL-LEVEL BODY. SOLUTION MAY BE SEPARATE ARTICLES TREATING CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL MATTERS. THE NEGOTIATOR FOR GOB SEEMS TO BE DAMYANOV, HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY CULTURAL DEPT, WHOM FROM LONG EXPERIENCE WE REGARD AS A "COORDINATOR" RATHER THAN MAKER OR EVEN INFLUENCER OF DECISIONS.

5. AT THE MOMENT ALL BULGARIAN CULTURAL TYPES OF ANY IMPORTANCE ARE IN LONDON FOR OPENING OF THE THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT.
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AMBASSADOR HAS WRITTEN DAMYANOV SUGGESTING THE TWO SIDES GET TOGETHER FOR AN EXPLORATORY SESSION IN WHICH EACH SIDE COULD ORALLY EXPLAIN ITS REQUIREMENTS AND WHERE IT FINDS DIFFICULTIES, SINCE SIMPLY PASSING DRAFTS BACK AND FORTH IS LIKELY TO BE FRUSTRATING AND TIME-CONSUMING. (BRITISH TELL US, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS THE WAY IN WHICH THEY ARE ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATING A DOCUMENT ON CREDITS; SO IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO MEET NEGOTIATORS FACE TO FACE,

BEYOND DAMYANOV WHOM WE WOULD REGARD ESSENTIALLY AS A
MESSENGER.)

6. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO A START, IN A
MANNER OF SPEAKING; BUT UNTIL WE HAVE MET FACE-TO-
FACE WITH A NEGOTIATOR WE WILL NOT KNOW HOW FAST THE
BULGARIANS REALLY WISH TO PROCEED. THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANYONE
TO WORRY, IN ANY CASE, THAT PROGRESS HERE IS APT TO OUTSTRIP
THAT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH HUNGARY.
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